

HJR 153 FEASIBILITY STUDY

GENERIC QUESTIONS

1. Please identify the major issues/questions that should be addressed by the HJR153 feasibility study.
2. Please describe the potential benefits to the public and utility companies associated with the undergrounding of overhead distribution lines.
3. Please describe the potential negative impacts on the public and utility companies associated with the undergrounding of overhead distribution lines.
4. Please describe in detail the potential obstacles associated with the implementation of a program to relocate overhead distribution lines to underground (for example, statutory, regulatory, technological, economic, safety, and physical obstacles).
5. Please describe the process for identifying and securing right-of-way easements for the relocation of existing overhead distribution lines to underground. What property rights issues would be raised as a result?
6. In order of importance, list the criteria that should be considered to determine whether the implementation of a program to relocate overhead distribution lines to underground is desirable.
7. In order of preference, describe the potential options for funding the relocation of overhead distribution lines to underground and explain the basis of your recommendation.
8. Should one or more pilot programs be conducted to determine more precisely the benefits, costs and obstacles associated with the implementation of a program to relocate overhead distribution lines to underground? If pilot programs should be conducted, how could and should the pilot programs be funded?
9. Considering the costs, benefits and obstacles associated with the implementation of an undergrounding program, should the General Assembly require utilities to place all or a portion of existing and/or new overhead distribution lines underground? Alternatively, should such decisions be left to local government? Please explain your answer.
10. What obstacles, if any, currently prevent a local government from enacting an ordinance establishing all or a part of the locality as an area in which: (a) existing overhead utility distribution lines must be relocated underground over some period of time; and/or (b) all new utility distribution lines must be located underground?

11. For the specific purpose of funding the undergrounding of existing overhead utility distribution lines, what obstacles, if any, currently prevent a local government from levying a special tax on the residents and businesses of an area within the locality in which the local government has enacted an ordinance requiring the undergrounding of utility distribution lines? Would such a special tax assessment require specific new authorization from the General Assembly?

12. Interested parties are invited also to address all other legal and policy issues they believe relevant to this investigation.

13. Please indicate below your desired level of participation in the feasibility study.

☐ *Placed on the distribution list for all correspondence.*

☐ *Considered as an active participant in the feasibility study.* If you wish to be considered as an active participant, please complete the following:

Field of expertise _____

Organization _____

14. If you are interested in participating as an active participant, would you be willing to serve also as a member of a subgroup to identify, research, and analyze specific issues and provide written summaries of specific topics of study?

☐ *Yes*

☐ *No*

15. Please provide the following contact information:

Name _____

Title _____

Mailing Address _____

Telephone _____ Fax _____

Email Address _____

16. Do you plan on attending the kickoff meeting in Richmond (specific location to be announced later) scheduled for 9:30 a.m., Monday, August 16, 2004?

☐ *Yes. Number of attendees representing your organization: _____*

☐ *No*